

World War II was a grim chapter in America's history. But by sustaining this history, we can hope to prevent a similar travesty from occurring.

That is why it was so important to designate Tule Lake as a National Historic Landmark within the lifetimes of the few surviving Japanese-American internees, before many of their stories were lost. And thanks to the efforts of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the Tule Lake Segregation Center will help future generations understand the pain and suffering that Japanese Americans endured during World War II.

Despite these hardships, members of the Asian Pacific Islander community have continued to take positions of leadership and have worked hard to secure a brighter future for all.

Today, California boasts 20 elected officials of Asian Pacific Islander heritage. There are now nine Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the State legislature; four on the State board of equalization, including John Chiang as the State controller; and a number of others in local government. A new generation of leaders has emerged with a vision of a politically empowered Asian Pacific Islander American electorate.

Additionally, over 62,000 Asian Pacific Islander Americans are on active duty in the military, and nearly 8,000 are deployed across the world to fight terrorism. And Asian Pacific Islander Americans are among the thousands of Americans who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

The United States draws great strength from the diversity of this population. At present, Asian Pacific Islander Americans constitute one of the fastest growing minority communities in the United States. And California is home to the greatest number of Asian Pacific Islander Americans. In fact, there are over 13 million Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the Nation, with more than 4.5 million living in California.

As the second largest ethnic minority group in California, Asian Pacific Islander heritage continues to enrich our State with famous enclaves such as San Francisco's Chinatown, Los Angeles' Koreatown, Westminster's Little Saigon, and the city of Artesia's Little India.

We must recognize that the Asian Pacific Islander American community is diverse, not only in language, culture, and foods but in education and socioeconomic levels as well. That is why it is so important to provide talented students who have clearly embraced the American dream the incentive to take the path toward being a responsible, contributing member in our civic society.

I have cosponsored the DREAM Act of 2007 to give undocumented high school students who wish to attend college or serve in the Armed Forces an opportunity to adjust to a lawful status and pursue these goals. If it becomes law, the DREAM Act would help Asian Pacific Islander Americans and others triumph over adversity.

As future generations of Asian Pacific Islander Americans continue to strive for excellence in our educational system, economy, and communities, I am pleased to honor and distinguish the many triumphs and accomplishments of the Asian Pacific Islander American community and their role in shaping our Nation's identity.

VA HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed a resolution designating May 14 to 18, 2007, as National Health Information Technology Week. In connection with this resolution, it is important to recognize the leadership and progress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has shown in the area of health information technology.

By passing this resolution, the Senate has recognized the tremendous importance of information technology in improving health care for all Americans. RAND Corporation has estimated that by improving health information technology and practices more than \$81 billion can be saved annually in the United States.

Such savings are only one aspect of the promised impact of better health information technology. The other, more important aspect is that improved health information technology can help save lives by providing health care providers with more accurate and timely patient information.

As an increasing number of veterans return from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan with complicated injuries, they must receive the quality care earned through their service. Information technology helps VA provide that care.

Over the past decade, VA has become a leader in the use of electronic health records. Through VA's veterans health information system and technology architecture, commonly referred to as VISTA, clinicians can access and update electronic health records throughout the Nation's largest health care system. Clinicians can also view medical images, such as x rays, pathology slides, and other critical records that can be placed immediately into a patient's record. In addition to their electronic records system, VA is reducing medication and prescription errors through a point-of-care system to verify that patients receive correct dosage at correct times, visually alerting staff when errors are made. For its development and employment of this system, VA was awarded the 2006 Innovations in Government Award, sponsored by Harvard University.

While VA's health care system is by no means perfect, its use of health information technology has improved the quality of care received by veterans, while reducing the costs to our taxpayers. I hope the Department will continue on their path of progress, and I commend VA for its work thus far.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT HAROLD GEORGE DANLEY

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a man who died in the service of his country 64 years ago, but never received the proper recognition he was due.

Harold George Danley was one of four brothers from Lincoln, NE, who joined the armed services during World War II. Three of those brothers returned home to their families; Sergeant Danley, who was 22 years old, did not.

Sergeant Danley was serving in the 18th Army/Air Force Anti-Submarine Squadron aboard a B-24D Bomber, which crashed while patrolling the East Coast of the United States somewhere near the Virginia/North Carolina shoreline on April 21, 1943. Despite the efforts of search parties, his body was never recovered; therefore, no memorial service was ever performed on his behalf. It was some time later that the family was notified that Sergeant Danley was officially listed as FOD, "Finding of Death."

Sergeant Danley left behind his wife Thelma; his daughter Merriam, who was born several months after her father's death; his father Harrison and stepmother Anna; three brothers, LTC Earl E. Danley, SGT Bob E. Danley, and SGT Lloyd K. Danley, now deceased; and three half-siblings, Marvin, Delores, and Betty. His mother Ella preceded him in death.

On May 18, 2007, a memorial service was held at Arlington National Cemetery to honor Harold G. Danley as a son, brother, husband, and father, as well as a man who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country. My thoughts are with the Danley family as they honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Danley, a Nebraska hero from the Second World War.●

RECOGNIZING HEIDI WENTZLAFF

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Heidi Wentzlaff, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Heidi is a graduate of Centerville Public High School in Centerville, SD. Currently she is attending Augustana College, where she is majoring in government and international affairs. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Heidi for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KEN CROCKETT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the decade-plus of